



Burnt Shadows: A Novel

By Kamila Shamsie

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**Winner of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award
An Orange Prize Finalist**

Nagasaki, August 9, 1945. Hiroko Tanaka watches her lover from the veranda as he leaves. Sunlight streams across Urakami Valley, and then the world goes white.

In the devastating aftermath of the atomic bomb, Hiroko leaves Japan in search of new beginnings. From Delhi, amid India's cry for independence from British colonial rule, to New York City in the immediate wake of 9/11, to the novel's astonishing climax in Afghanistan, a violent history casts its shadow the entire world over. Sweeping in its scope and mesmerizing in its evocation of time and place, this is a tale of love and war, of three generations, and three world-changing historic events. *Burnt Shadows* is a story for our time by "a writer of immense ambition and strength. . . . This is an absorbing novel that commands in the reader a powerful emotional and intellectual response" (Salman Rushdie).

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Burnt Shadows: A Novel By Kamila Shamsie Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Shamsie's complex fifth novel, spanning the years between August 1945 and September 2001, is a story of two inextricably connected and politically impacted families. Berliner Konrad Weiss and Hiroko Tanaka, his translator, meet in Nagasaki and plan to marry. But after he is incinerated by the bomb and she is left permanently scarred, Hiroko journeys to Delhi, home of Konrad's half-sister, Elizabeth Burton, and her British husband, James. Hiroko bonds with James' assistant, Sajjad. With Partition between India and Pakistan looming, the Burtons return to England, where their son Henry is in boarding school. Hiroko and Sajjad marry, but they're not allowed back into India, since Sajjad is a Muslim who "chose to leave." Shamsie takes up their story 35 years later in Karachi, where they have one son, Raza, after bomb-related miscarriages. Henry appears, searching for his past, and offers to assist with Raza's education; by 2001, they're working together for the CIA in the U.S. Shamsie offers a moving look at the "complicated shared history" of these two families, an increasingly common facet of globalization. --Deborah Donovan

Review

"Burnt Shadows is one of the most remarkable novels I have read in recent years -- a tour de force of vision, sympathy, language. Kamila Shamsie's subject is brilliantly timely in our era or 'globalization'--at the same time a riveting family saga in which the very concept 'family' is ambitiously and imaginatively examined."--Joyce Carol Oates

"Completely authentic, complex, and breath-stopping."--Emma Thompson

"The most ambitious novel yet by this talented writer. In *Burnt Shadows*, Kamila Shamsie casts her imagination remarkably far and wide, through time and across continents."--Mohsin Hamid

"Kamila Shamsie is a writer of immense ambition and strength. She understands a great deal about the ways in which the world's many tragedies and histories shape one another, and about how human beings can try to avoid being crushed by their fate and can discover their humanity, even in the fiercest combat zones of the age. *Burnt Shadows* is an absorbing novel that commands, in the reader, a powerful emotional and intellectual response."--Salman Rushdie

"Ambitious . . . Shamsie's deft touch . . . delicately builds the momentums of everyday life against the insidiously political situation of the time. . . . A tribute to Shamsie's skills." --*Chicago Sun-Times*

"*Burnt Shadows* is audacious in its ambition, epic in its scope. A startling expansion of the author's intentions, imagination and craftsmanship. One can only admire the huge advances she has made, and helped us to make, in understanding the new global tensions."--Anita Desai

"One of the finest writers at work anywhere, period . . . A great, absorbing novel, one that will be with us a long time."--Rick Simonson, Elliot Bay Book Company

"Kamila Shamsie opens a vista onto the century we have just lived through--pointing out its terror and its solace. She is so extraordinary a writer that she also offers hints about th...

Review

'An absorbing novel that commands, in the reader, a powerful emotional and intellectual response Kamila Shamsie is a writer of immense strength' - Salman Rushdie 'A brilliant book she is so extraordinary a writer' - Nadeem Aslam 'I feel that I have travelled the world and spent the past six decades with Hiroko and her family. Burnt Shadows is a beautiful, beautiful book' - Tahmima Anam 'Audacious in its ambition, epic in its scope. One can only admire the huge advances she has made, and helped us to make, in understanding the new global tensions' - Anita Desai

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Pauline Jefferson:

Do you have favorite book? When you have, what is your favorite's book? Book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They may be reading whatever they get because their hobby will be reading a book. Think about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, individual feel need book when they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will require this Burnt Shadows: A Novel.

Christopher Watson:

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Jennifer Johnson:

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Kenneth Cunningham:

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